

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 19 are pending in this application. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by the Hsu patent. Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Hsu patent in view of the Lai patent. Claims 1, 5-7 and 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Lassiter patent in view of the Lai et al. patent. Claims 8, 9, 12, and 16 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the same references as applied to claims 1 and 13 previously mentioned and further in view of the Engel patent. Furthermore, the Examiner claims that the particular location and/or arrangement selected for elements are considered obvious matter of design choice to one having ordinary skill within the art. Claims 10, 11, and 17-19 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Enclosed herewith are six (6) sheets, depicting FIGS. 1-11, which correct the errors identified in the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review.

As amended, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). Because of the amendment made to claim 13, it should now be clear to the Examiner, especially after reviewing the reasons for allowing claim 1 provided below by Applicant, that claim 13, and thus all

dependent claims, should now be allowed. To be more specific, Hsu does not disclose a first hole formed therethrough a main body through which a first end of a line is inserted, a second hole formed therethrough the main body through which a second end of the line is inserted, a plurality of protrusions within the first hole and the second hole allowing, within the first hole the first end of the line to enter in a first direction and exit in a second direction, and within the second hole allowing the second end of the line to enter in a first direction and exit in a second direction, and also having a third hole formed therethrough the main body through which at least one of the first end or the second end of the line may be further secured to the main body.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Hsu patent in view of the Lai patent. Hsu discloses a U-shaped lace buckle having a shallow trench located at a central location, a releasing hole 11 and a fastening hole 13 where the fastening hole 13 has a plurality of protruded elements 131 projecting for an inner surface. A channel 14 is also disclosed with an arch-shaped groove 15, through which a U-shaped lace buckle fits. Lai discloses a fabric strap retainer having a back insertion hole for insertion of fabric straps in a crossed manner, two post-like stop ends at two sides of the back insertion hole, a partition column disposed on the middle in flush with a front side, two release holes extended from the back insertion holds. Lai also discloses two hollow engagement units with a series of teeth.

Applicant's invention discloses a system for securing a first end and a second end of a line wherein the line is placed around an object where the object is not the invention itself. Neither Hsu nor Lai disclose an invention that is capable of performing this function. Furthermore, as amended, neither Hsu nor Lai disclose a first hole through which the first end of the line is inserted and secured, a second hole through which the second end of the line is inserted and secured, a third hole through which the first end and/or the second end of the line may be further secured to the main body. There is no disclosure, teaching, suggestion, or implication that one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made could combine Hsu and Lai to reach Applicant's invention. As a matter of fact, combining Hsu and Lai as suggested by the Examiner actually teaches away from Applicant's invention and makes Hsu inoperative for its intended purpose.

Hsu discloses a line passing through a channel 14 and around an arch-shaped groove 15. If the protrusions of Lai were placed within the channel 14 of Hsu, Applicant does not disclose the need of running a first end of a line around an arch-shaped groove and then through a second channel 14. Instead, Applicant's invention allows for each end of a line to be placed into an individual hole. Placing inclined protrusions in the channels 14 of Hsu would make Hsu inoperable for its intended purpose since the lace buckle would be unable to move as a lace 2 is inserted or pulsed tight which would result in the U-shaped lace 3 eventually fraying and separating.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1, 4-7, and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lassiter in view of Lai et al. As amended, Applicant further discloses a third hole, or receptacle through which the first end and/or the second end of the line may be further secured to the main body or receptacle. This element is not disclosed, suggested, taught, or suggested by either Lassiter or Lai et al. Furthermore, Lassiter teaches that one sleeve is an open sleeve 28 with an opening 22 on one side of the open sleeve. A line can be removed through the opening 22 in the open sleeve 28. This element teaches away from Applicant's invention. Furthermore, Lassiter does not disclose a leverage device with a cavity for receiving and holding the main body of the invention.

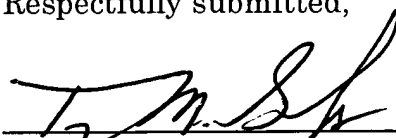
Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 8, 9, 12, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the same references as applied to claims 1 and 13 and further in view of Engel since Applicant believes his arguments against the rejections of claims 1 and 13 are sufficient to rebut the Examiner's rejection of these independent claims which mean that dependent claims 8, 9, 12, and 16 should also now be allowed.

Furthermore, Applicant traverses the Examiner's position that the particular location and/or arrangement selected for elements are considered obvious matter of design choice to one having ordinary skill within the art. Applicant's invention is more than simply a particular location and/or arrangement selected for elements. Furthermore, *Japikse*, 86 USPQ 70,

holds true for a claim rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102, specifically where a claim reads on a particular patent except as to a location of elements disclosed in a claim. *See* 86 U.S.P.Q at 73.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant requests reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-9 and 12-16 and objection of claims 10, 11, and 17-19. If further prosecution of this application can be facilitated by telephone, the undersigned may be reached at (407) 926-7707.

Respectfully submitted,



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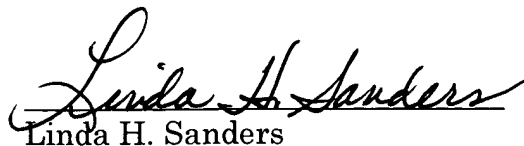
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Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing Response, Amendment and Remarks was furnished by First Class Mail to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, this 28 day of March, 2005.



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